

An Insider's Guide to Water Conservation

With all the emphasis placed on conserving water in landscapes, it's easy to neglect water saving around the house. Yet, we can reap significant savings without significant lifestyle changes. Here's how:

Bathrooms:

- A bucket placed inside the shower collects "warm-up" water. This otherwise wasted water is great for container plants.
- If all American households installed water-saving toilets, faucets and showerheads, water savings would equal about 5.4 billion gallons per day.
- Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Repair leaks--one drop per second wastes 2,400 gallons of water a year!

Kitchens:

- Scrape dirty dishes instead of using the dishwasher pre-rinse cycle.
- Run dishwashers and washing machines on full loads only.
- Limit disposal use by composting garbage. You'll save large amounts of water and improve your garden soil.

Around the house and yard:

- Use a broom or blower on sidewalks and driveways instead of a hose.
- Don't let the water run while washing your car. Use a nozzle or hose-end turn off valve.
- Pool covers reduce evaporation. In arid climates, an average sized swimming pool loses about 1,000 gallons of water per month if left uncovered.
- It's a sign of summer fun, but running through sprinklers or playing with hoses wastes gallons of water.

Use common sense--think about water and how you use it. Involve your entire family. The habits we teach children now make them better environmental citizens in the future.